



Springwood and District Preschool Kindergarten

Hand Washing Policy

Legislation:

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulation 2018

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000

Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001

Rationale:

Hand washing is the most important way to reduce the spread of infection. Many studies have shown that unwashed or improperly washed hands are the primary carriers of infections.

Aims:

- To ensure that health practices limit the spread of disease and infection.
- To provide an easy to follow method of hand washing.
- To provide clear guidelines for adults and children to follow.

Procedure:

- Staff will observe the recommendations for when hands need to be washed listed below.
- Staff will assist children in washing hands and model practices at all times.
- Hand basins are readily accessible and located for the children in the children's bathroom
- Hand basins for staff use are located in the staff toilet and children's toilets.
- Ensure that cuts, abrasions, dermatitis or open wounds on hands are covered with a water resistant dressing.
- Ensure children, visitors and persons normally working at the preschool wash hands:
 - On arrival at preschool (parents can help with this)
 - Before eating food, and after when required
 - Before preparing and cooking food
 - After changing or checking nappies
 - After going to the toilet
 - After cleaning up or any contact with urine, faeces, vomit, blood or other body fluids
 - After wiping nose or contact with nasal or salivary secretions
 - Before and after giving a child medication
 - After handling animals (including birds and reptiles)
 - After giving first aid or CPR



Hand washing Procedure:

- Wet your hands with warm, running water and apply liquid soap. Lather well.
- Rub your hands vigorously together for at least 15 to 20 seconds.
- Scrub all surfaces, including the backs of your hands, wrists, between your fingers and under your fingernails.
- Rinse well.
- Dry your hands with a clean or disposable towel.
- Use a towel to turn off the tap.
- Pat your hands dry with a new paper towel.

When water and soap cannot be accessed:

- The use of wet wipes can be used to substitute water and soap
- Liquid gel disinfectant can be used in place of water and soap.

Links to Quality Areas and Standards:		
Quality Area 2		Children's Health and Safety
Standard	2.3	Each child is protected.
Quality Area 4		Staffing Arrangements
Standard	4.1	Staffing arrangements enhance children's learning and development and ensure their safety and wellbeing.
Quality Area 6		Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
Standard	6.1	Respectful supportive relationships with families are developed and maintained.
Standard	6.3	The service collaborates with other organisations and service providers to enhance children's learning and wellbeing.
Quality Area 7		Leadership and service management
Standard	7.1	Effective leadership promotes a positive organisational culture and builds a professional learning community.
Standard	7.2	There is a commitment to continuous improvement.
Standard	7.3	Administrative systems enable the effective management of a quality service.

Source:

Because it Matters P/L

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) (2009) *Belonging, Being, Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*. Canberra:DEEWR

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) (2011) *Education and Care Services National Regulation*

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) (2009) *National Quality Standard for Early Education and Care and School Aged Children* Canberra:DEEWR

Health and Safety in Children's Centres: Model Policies and Practices (2004)

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2005) *Staying healthy in Child Care* 4th ed

NSW Children's Services Health and Safety Committee and Early Childhood Australia (NSW Branch)

NSW Health Department <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au>

UNSW – (2003) *Health and Safety in Children's Services – Model Policies and Practices* 2nd ed



Policy Reviewed by: _____ *Approved by:* _____

Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____

Date: ____/____/____

Next Review Date: ____/____/____

